

# Devonshire Primary School

**'ENTHUSIASTIC FOR EVERYONE'S SUCCESS'**

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Dear Devonshire families,

## Concerns about Fortnite

We would like to make you aware of a game called Fortnite and several online safety concerns behind it. The game is available on a PC, Mac, PlayStation and Xbox– also on some iPads and iPhones. Recently we have noticed an increasing number of children playing and talking about this game, this letter is to make you aware of the game and what to do.

### What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is an online game (and app), which includes Battle Royale, where players do not have to pay to play. In Battle Royale, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player (PVP) combat. Users play against people of different ages from across the world, and can talk and interact with each other as they play through the in-game chat feature.

### Can it be accessed in school?

No. This game is blocked from all iPads and school computers.

### What is the Fortnite's minimum age?

Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12, PEGI have said that this is due to the: 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'. This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers, either through audio or on-screen text chat.

### How does it work?

In order to play Fortnite you have to create an account. To create this account you need to provide an email address (which you will have to verify) and display/user name. However you are not asked your age in order to create an account. As Fortnite is an online game children will play against players of different ages from across the world. You cannot turn the 'in game' chats off or choose who you play against.

### What do parents need to watch out for?

- Chatting to strangers
- Giving abuse to, or receiving abuse from, other people
- Sharing personal information
- In game purchases
- Animated violence

If you know your child is using Fortnite, please have an open and honest conversation with them. It's important to involve yourself in your child's online life. We do not recommend the use of this game and would urge you to encourage them to use more educational websites.

Yours sincerely

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